

BEST PLAYS

This series presented stage plays adapted for radio by Ernest Kinoy, and featuring Hollywood and Broadway performers who had previously starred in their original stage roles. Vincent Price performed his original stage role in Patrick Hamilton's "Angel Street." Boris Karloff reprised his stage role of Jonathan Brewster in "Arsenic and Old Lace." Helen Hayes in (what else?) "Victoria Regina."

Broadcast on NBC, the program never had a sponsor and began as a summer replacement for *Theater Guild on the Air*, broadcast 8:30 pm to 9:30 pm EST. Beginning with episode fifteen, the program moved to Friday and developed a new format at 9 - 10 pm. Beginning with episode nineteen, the series moved to Sundays, where it remained until the end of the series, but at a half-hour format, 8:30 - 9 pm.

John Chapman was the host, Fred Collins and Robert Denton shared announcing duties. William Welch supervised the entire program. Edward King directed for a time, and then Fred Wade (Weihe?) for the rest. Clarence Ross also adapted stage plays for the series.

1. "Winterset" (6/8/52) Burgess Meredith and Maureen Stapleton
2. "On Borrowed Time" (6/15/52) David Anderson, Parker Fennelly, and Mildred Natwick
3. "Angel Street" (6/22/52) Melville Cooper, Elizabeth Eustis, Judith Evelyn, and Vincent Price
4. "The Hasty Heart" (6/29/52) Anne Burr and John Sylvester
5. "Arsenic and Old Lace" (7/6/52) Jean Adair, Donald Cook, Boris Karloff, Edgar Staley, and Evelyn Varden
6. "The Dark of the Moon" (7/13/52) Alfred Drake
7. "The Voice of the Turtle" (7/20/52) Audrey Christie, Elliott Nugent, and Martha Scott
8. "All My Sons" (7/27/52) Ed Begley, John Larkin, and Alexander Scourby
9. "Outward Bound" (8/3/52) Jean Adair, Alexander Scourby, and Chester Stratton
10. "Uncle Harry" (8/10/52) Agnes Moorehead and Joseph Schildkraut
11. "The Philadelphia Story" (8/17/52) Joan Alexander, Betty Furness, and Myron McCormick
12. "Home of the Brave" (8/24/52) Donald Buka, Peter Capell, and Russell Hardie
13. "Blithe Spirit" (8/31/52) John Loder, Mildred Natwick, and Haila Stoddard
14. "Bound East for Cardiff" and "The Long Voyage Home" (9/7/52) Raymond Edward Johnson, Joan Lorrington, and William Marshall [Eugene O'Neil double feature]
15. "Victoria Regina" (10/3/52) Carl Esmond and Helen Hayes
16. "She Loves Me Not" (10/10/52) Eddie Bracken and Ann Thomas
17. "High Tor" (10/17/52) Burgess Meredith and Maureen Stapleton
18. "Biography" (10/24/52) Faye Emerson
19. "Elizabeth the Queen" (11/7/52) Eva LaGallienne and Richard Waring
20. "The Mad Woman of the Chaillot" (11/14/52) Aline MacMahon
21. "Missouri Legend" (11/21/52) John Forsthye and Virginia Payne
22. "Rope" (11/28/52) Hurd Hatfield and Victor Jory
23. "Skylark" (12/5/52) Donald Cook and June Havoc
24. "Craig's Wife" (12/12/52) John Beal, Judith Evelyn, Irene Hubbard, Ross Martin, William Redfield
25. "Night Must Fall" (12/19/52) Mary Boland and Alfred Drake
26. "A Bell for Adano" (12/26/52) Joe Di Santis, Arthur Kennedy, Gilbert Mack, Myron McCormick, Tony Randall, Louis Van Rooten, and Karl Weber
27. "Accent on Youth" (1/2/53) Sally Forrest and Paul Lukas
28. "Men in White" (1/9/53) Richard Basehart and Joan Lorrington
29. "There Shall Be No Light" (1/23/53) Florence Eldridge and Fredric March
30. "Camille" (1/30/53) Eva LaGallienne and Richard Waring
31. "John Loves Mary" (2/6/53) Nina Foch and Van Johnson
32. "The Glass Menagerie" (2/13/53) Geraldine Page
33. "Mr. Roberts" (4/24/53) Wendell Holmes and Arthur Kennedy
34. "Susan and God" (5/1/53) Judith Evelyn and Paul McGrath

35. "Of Mice and Men" (5/8/53) Burgess Meredith and Anthony Quinn
36. "St. Helena" (5/15/53) Dennis King
37. "Summer and Smoke" (5/22/53) Geraldine Page
38. "The Amazing Dr. Clitterhouse" (5/29/53) Sir Cedric Hardwicke
39. "Autumn Crocus" (6/5/53) Carmen Mathews and Walter Slezak
40. "Another Language" (6/21/53) Faye Emerson
41. "The Farmer Takes a Wife" (6/28/53) John Forsythe and Joan Larring
42. "Macbeth" (7/12/53) Statts Cotsworth and Eva LaGallienne
43. "The Rose Tattoo" (7/19/53) Maureen Stapleton and Eli Wallach
44. "Kiss the Boys Goodbye" (7/26/53) Helen Claire
45. "There's Always Juliet" (8/2/53) Paul McGrath and Margaret Phillips
46. "The Male Animal" (8/9/53) Elliot Nugent and Martha Scott
47. "Detective Story" (8/16/53) Wendell Corey and Alexander Scourby
48. "Ladies in Retirement" (8/23/53) Carmen Matthews, Mildred Natwick, and Evelyn Arden
49. "Tonight at 8:30" (8/30/53) Madeline Carroll and Jerome Cowan
50. "Kiss the Boys Goodbye" (9/6/53) Helen Claire
51. "Ethan Frome" (9/13/53) Geraldine Page
52. "The Petrified Forest" (9/20/53) Cyril Ritchard
53. "The Mad Woman of Chaillot" (9/27/53) Aline McMahon

Martin Grams, Jr. is the author of such publications as *Suspense: Twenty Years of Thrills and Chills*, *The History of the Cavalcade of America*, and co-author of *The CBS Radio Mystery Theater: An Episode Guide and Handbook to Nine Years of Broadcasting, 1974-82*. Martin is currently at work on *The Alfred Hitchcock Presents Companion* and a book documenting the history of the radio/television series *Have Gun, Will Travel*. For information regarding Martin's books, write to him at Po Box 189, Delta, PA 17314.
